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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHMMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHMHMHB/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6673
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9907
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2741
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1086
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IRAQ - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Monday morning's conservative Sankei front-paged an "out-of-season" outbreak of influenza across Japan, saying that many patients have been stricken with type-B flu, particularly in the southern and northern parts of the country.

[¶1.](#) "Can Zarqawi's Death Be Utilized?" The liberal Asahi editorialized (6/10): "...Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki welcomed the killing of al-Zarqawi by calling for Iraq's religious and ethnic groups to join hands, while President Bush called it a good opportunity to turn the tide in Iraq. To be sure, many Iraqi heaved a sigh of relief over the death of this terrorist leader. Given the daily terrorist bombings that have claimed the lives of many innocents, it would be overly optimistic to expect a dramatic improvement in the security situation.

[¶2.](#) "The US military capture of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in late 2003 was viewed as a major turning point in the Iraq war. But what has happened since then? More than three years after the launch of the war, sectarian and ethnic violence continues to grow.... With suspicions that US Marines have massacred innocent Iraqi civilians, there is a rising sense of war-fatigue in the US. If the USG thinks Zarqawi's death will change the unfavorable tide of public opinion, it is mistaken."

[¶3.](#) "Will Zarqawi's Death Improve Iraq's Security Situation?" An editorial in the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri commented (6/10): "The death of al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born international terrorist, is a development that both Iraqis and the international community hope will improve the security situation in Iraq.... Of course, there is no guarantee that Zarqawi's death will lead directly to an improvement in Iraq's security

situation, but this is nevertheless a good opportunity
for the Iraqi government to take new measures."

SCHIEFFER